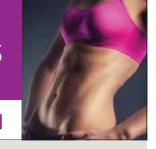
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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015

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he Heart of Christma

You don't have to be religious to understand the true meaning of the holidays. It's really just about good manners. **Merry Christmas from** everyone at Metro. XO!

Heartfelt advice from our etiquette expert Ellen Vanstone











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Dear readers.

Metro is not publishing on Christmas Day. Look for our special Time Capsule edition on Dec. We resume normal publication on Jan. 4.

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Your essential daily news

To infinity, and beyond.

Man launches engagement ring into the stratosphere



Brodie Thomas Metro | Calgary

It's a love story that started with an article in Metro, and stretches all the way to the edge of space.

In 2008, Shawn Wright was biking across Canada to raise money for a children's camp. Metro Calgary had the story.

An old family friend, May Stephenson, saw the article and decided to look him up.

Wright said he ended up calling her every night on his trip, and the love just blossomed from there.

Wright and Stephenson got engaged with a stand-in ring while in Europe last year, but he wanted to do something extra special for her real ring.

"I just thought it would be really cool if I could enchant the ring. So I thought, how cool would it be if I put it up into space?"

Using weather balloons to launch cameras and other things to the edge of space



Shawn Wright sent his fiancée's engagement ring to 110,000 feet with a weather balloon, and captured the journey on a GoPro camera. COURTESY SHAWN WRIGHT

has become a hobby for some, so Wright checked out online forums and spent evenings and weekends preparing to

So I thought, how cool would it

be if I put it up into space?

sure how much he spent in total on the project. "I didn't really think about a I just thought it would be really budget — I just thought about cool if I could enchant the ring.

the mission," he said. Wright mounted the ring

send the engagement ring into

Looking back now, he's not

the stratosphere.

and a GoPro camera to a kitchen spatula and sent the ring

"I told my dad about 20 minutes before the launch I needed his help. He didn't question it and he just kind of went for it. It was a blast hunting this thing down."

The balloon drifted south, and Wright was worried it might cross into the U.S., but the jet stream saved the day, carrying it towards Lethbridge

When the balloon popped at around 110,000 feet, the ring returned to Earth by parachute.

Wright said Stephenson loved the video, and wants to send the camera up on another weather balloon someday soon.

So, space wedding bands? 'No, I don't think I'm going to risk that twice," he said.

Nenshi tweets to top crop

Twitter Canada compiled the Canadian mayors with the most mention on Twitter in

You'll never guess who topped the list.

More than Edmonton's Don Iveson (number 5), more than Montreal's Denis Coderre (Number 3), and more than Toronto's John Tory (number 2) was Calgary's own Naheed Nenshi.

The mayor currently has 276,000 followers. He's been known to retweet messages from Calgarians searching for lost pets, but he's also known for witty tweets, and he isn't afraid to take on trolls either.

Karen Richards, social media strategist, said Nenshi is very adept at using the medium.

"He's proven that with these Internet trolls, he can very creatively - and with knowledge and sophisticated use of social media - shut them down,' she said.

Ernest Barbaric, digital marketing strategists and teacher at Mount Royal University and the University of Calgary, said Nenshi's brand is known across the world in part due to his presence on Twitter. He doesn't see a downside to Nenshi's visibility on the platform.

"By having this kind of a visibility, it also helps if he were to go to federal elections or provincial elections in any capacity," said Barbaric. "This community he has built would be a complete asset.' BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

'No strings' donation pledged to library



Helen **Pike** Metro | Calgary

Shawn Wright

The Calgary Library foundation may soon have a hefty cheque to cash — and this time the money is coming with no strings attached.

A Calgary man is investing 10 per cent of his own pay and pledging to raise \$100,000 for the library after entrepreneur Brett Wilson's similar announcement in November.

"It started with the contro-

versy surrounding Brett Wilson and his announcement that he would give the Calgary Public Library \$100,000 if the city approved Uber," said Nathan Schmidt. "I found that it was in poor taste and unfair to hold the library hostage in order to further his own ambitions. Libraries are typically pretty humble institutions and to use the CPL as a pawn to further political goals was totally off base."

Schmidt maintains he has no animosity towards the entrepreneur, but saw this as an op-



Funds are being raised at: indiegogo.com/projects/ books-are-awesome

Money will go towards the Library even if his goals aren't met and he has raised \$1,165 so far.

portunity to give back.

"I figured I would actually do something concrete to show my distaste for the whole thing and start a fundraiser to encourage him to give money to a worthy cause with no strings attached," Schmidt said.

Paul McIntyre Royston, Calgary Public Library Foundation president, said this isn't the only mention of "no strings" the library has earned after Brett Wilson unexpectedly made his tongue-in-cheek offer at the Bob Edwards Award gala.

"It's been good about raising awareness for the library in things like this crowdfunding business," McIntyre Royston said.



Thanks to Brett Wilson's controversial November announcement, the Calgary Public Library may have a few more cheques to cash next year. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Christmas cards melt hearts

#MAKEITMERRY PROJECT

People from as far as U.S. help bring smiles to the homeless



Helen Pike Metro | Calgary

Jennifer Friesen For Metro



— it's the thought that counts. And as one Calgary resident discovered, giving is the best gift of all. Less than a month ago Barb Marshall set out to get 80 Christmas cards written and sent to Calgary's most vulnerable at the Drop In Centre. Now, weeks later she was overwhelmed by the generosity of Calgarians, Canadians and postage as far as the U.S.

To date she's gathered over 1,400 cards.

'The majority, of course, were Calgarians, but really all over Alberta," Barb Marshall



The whole family came together at the Calgary Drop-In Centre on Wednesday to hand out 1,400 Christmas cards sent from all over the country. Kate Marshall, 17, left, Lauren Burkart, 16, William Marshall, 9, Rebecca Marshall, 14, Barb Marshall and Andrew Marshall handed the cards out to every client who would accept one. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

said. "We even had some from the United States.

Schools, hockey teams, church groups, friends and strangers all had a part in the #MakeitMerry project. Marshall said she thinks it struck a chord with many communities.

Some of the cards included gift cards, transit tickets and origami peace doves.

What was really moving was the things that people wrote in them," Marshall said. "From the heart, telling them a little bit about their

life - don't give up, follow your heart, someone cares for you — those kinds of sweet, sweet things.

But better than all the messages were the reactions from Drop In Centre clients as Marshall, her children and friends

dropped the cards off on Wednesday. "They had no idea that we were coming and giving out cards," Marshall said. "We went from floor to floor."

Max Ciesielski, a DI client, was given his card from Marshall's son William. He said he will read the letter later to him what's inside doesn't matter.

"It was the fact that somebody took the time, it doesn't even matter what's inside, it comes from the heart," Ciesielski said. "It's all about the love, it's the heart that counts. With the recession, times are tough for everyone, but still people are coming forward to help."

When the family made their way to the senior's wing, Marshall handed one of the cards to a man in the corner of the room named Arthur. His eyes welled up as he looked down at the card, hardly saying a thing. Then he turned his eyes up to Marshall and the two stopped to share a smile before she continued through the room.

"They were just so appreciative, and just shocked," Marshall said. "You saw some softening of faces when they were reading their cards.



IN BRIEF

Truck thief arrested after dangerous joy ride

A man in his mid-20s is in police custody after stealing a vehicle and wreaking havoc on city streets Wednesday morning.

Early Wednesday, a man called police to re-port that his truck had been stolen from a residence in the 0-100 block of Range Way NW. Police located the vehicle around 7 a.m. - using a GPS in the truck - and began monitoring it using HAWCS.

Police said the truck was observed driving on sidewalks, through red lights and into oncoming traffic during the morning rush hour.

Police units forced the vehicle to stop by surrounding it in the 1600 block of 4 Street NW. Several police units were damaged when the driver of the stolen vehicle attempted to ram his way through the units that surrounded him. No one was injured as a result.

Charges are pending. LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

Rescue teams searching for missing snowmobiler

Search and rescue teams are scouring an area around Clearwater, B.C., searching for a snowmobiler who has been missing since Tuesday afternoon.

The RCMP helicopter and teams from Wells Gray, McBride and Kamloops are looking for the man believed to be in his forties.

Cpl. Mark LeBoissiere says the man was in the Finn Creek recreational

area with a group of snowmobilers from Alberta but be-

came

drop in temperature.

separated from his compan-

LeBoissiere says the unnamed snowmobiler has some backcountry experience, and is well equipped with food and other supplies.

Temperatures have also been fairly mild, dropping to -9 overnight. It now snowing in the search area but LeBoissiere hopes conditions will allow the aerial search to continue. (CHNL) THE CANADIAN PRESS

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of and delar shares, as sourced through the NFO Group's Retail Touring Service from October 2008 to August 2015 for the Digital SLR Camera category in the Caractian market.



George Paclawsky, a 90-year-old retired engineer, decided to donate his massive collection of butterflies to the University of Calgary. courtesy erin guiltenane

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Man, 90, donates butterfly collection



Aaron Chatha Metro | Calgary

The butterfly effect: A man travels the world with his wife collecting butterflies from all the places he visits, until settling in Vancouver in 1986.

In 2015, at 90 years old, the man decides to give away his butterflies to a public institution — unfortunately, nowhere in Vancouver has the space for his massive collection of 3,000 butterflies.

Their loss is the University of Calgary's gain, as George Paclawsky chose Calgary to donate his collection to.

John Swann, from the department of biological sciences at the university, said there's much about history that can be learned from the specimens, which have been catalogued by date and place.

'We can go back in time, look at where these species are distributed, and then say, are they still there? Why not?"

Swann said they could gather clues about climate or vegetation change, or how human intervention affected the spe-

"It's an incredible gift this man has given to the country."

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More than 900 Mount Royal University students are affected by the current withdrawal date, and student advocates hope to change it so students can plan their academic careers better. METRO FILE

Withdrawal date unfair: Students

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

Grades not always received by deadline in mid-semester



Helen **Pike** Metro | Calgary

With their withdrawal deadline in mid-semester, students at Mount Royal University feel they're at a disadvantage and hope to make some changes.

Mount Royal's current "Grades and Examinations" policy states that students must have 25 per cent of their total final grade five business days before the withdrawal deadline. But that doesn't always happen.

Students who fall into this category are eligible to receive a "W," which doesn't affect GPA, instead of an "F" grade, which does. This semester MRU has granted an extension to those affected, as the deadline would

David Cloutier, vice president Academic with the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, has been working on advocating for over 900 students affected by the withdrawal date. He said students need to have assessment data early in the semester as it's correlated with student success.

Students need that information to make an informed choice, with our withdraw deadline being in the middle of the semester instead of the end," Cloutier said.

This year, at the Nov. 19 General Faculties Council Meeting, students said they will be putting forward a motion to change the deadline to the last day of classes as it is with many other postsecondary institutions.

"We understand students need to make an informed decision about withdrawing from a class. In response to some students' concerns, we have been exploring changes to our withdrawal process, which will require consultation with our

There seems to be support for accepting what other universities are doing.

David Cloutier

campus community," read a statement from Phil Warsaba, associate vice-president of enrolment management and registrar for Mount Royal University. "When considering a withdrawal, students are always encouraged to speak with their instructor and with an academic advisor before deciding to remove themselves from a course.'

Cloutier said the school waiving withdrawal deadlines is a good interim solution but hopes to continue the conversation and make changes in the new year.

"There seems to be support for accepting what other universities are doing in this matter,' Cloutier said.



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Slacklining posts just a trial, city says



It's been more than a month since the city installed three green metal posts in a northeast park and the slacklining community is getting on well with the freshly cemented and legal spots to sling their lines.

But Michael Sparks with the local chapter of the Can-

adian Slackline Association said they're looking for the city to start a Phase 2 project and worry the initial \$10,000 of the first poles may deter the city from more slackline infrastructure.

"My main concern is that if the city won't provide posts, but won't allow tree usage, we're out in the cold with no options, again," said Sparks.

He's been working with Coun. Shane Keating to find a happy medium between cost and more accessible sites.

"I've said over and over the city should have every aspect possible for recreation ... from the opera to the race car drivers, we should have it all," said Keating. "A city of this size should."

John Merriman, parks community strategist with the City of Calgary, said they aren't jumping into another project before they see their first set of installed infrastructure through a year-long pilot to watch usage

and how the engineered supports hold up structurally.

"The slackliners have started to use it, which is good," said Merriman. "This first site is a pilot site, we want to see how the posts are going to hold up to the weather ... how the posts hold up to the stresses the slacklines have on them."

If the posts prove viable they will explore other sites, but would need funding to move



Alberta Premier Rachel Notley THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reforms on way for aid

No one in need of

support should

have to wait.

Government statement

PROVINCE

NDP trying to get more help for disabilities



Helen Metro | Calgary

After pumping more cash into the budget and dealing with higher service demands, the NDP government is still trying to bring Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) application times back down to their pre-2011 norms.

Premier Rachel Notley was critical of the Progressive Conservative government in 2013 when she pointed out wait

times between seven and 23 weeks to find out if you are eligible for benefits. Recent calls to an AISH office confirmed that wait time is still at 16 to 24 weeks.

"We will talk with the minister on how to move forward with AISH. There are a number of issues with AISH we need to consider," Notley told reporters in early December.

LeeAnn Praud has applied to AISH and Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) with her 18-year-old daughter, who has had seizures since she was born. Currently she lives with her parents and is

safe, but her mother is still concerned about wait times for those who aren't as lucky.

"Four to six months for someone who is out of work and has whatever disability, with no income in the meantime, that's ridiculous," said Praud. "If my daughter wasn't home safe and she was one of those people, or she wasn't in her extra year of high school, then it would totally be affecting her."

The 2015/2016 Alberta budget allocated an extra \$33 million to AISH, which the government hopes will help deal with an increased demand.

"No one in need of support should have to wait for an unreasonably long amount of time. The backlog was developed under the previous

government. I agree this is a problem and the NDP government is committed to reducing wait times for AISH, and ensuring Albertans with disabilities get the

support they need in a timely way," read a statement from Aileen Machell press secretary for Alberta Human Services Minister Irfan Sabir.

"We've seen caseload growth of 4 to 5 per cent which has contributed to wait times."

She added that extra money allocated in the budget includes \$3 million to go to more staff and addressing the backlog. WITH FILES FROM RYAN TUMILTY





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CRISIS HITS HARD

Fentanyl has been ruthless to the province this year. At about \$20 a pop, the notorious drug is cheap, plentiful and offers a powerful high. Here are some troubling numbers to give you a better understanding of just how toxic this crisis has become.

JEREMY SIMES AND LUCIE EDWARDSON METRO

66

It's going to be a national problem here very quickly if it isn't already.

It is difficult to get a handle on it because usually when we find out about it, it's too late.... It's tough to prevent a death other than getting the public information out that it's dangerous.

Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht

Number of fentanyl-related deaths in Alberta

Number of overdoses reported in Calgary as of Nov. 2

Milligrams of fentanyl it takes to kill someone

NALOXONE

Alberta Health Services (AHS) introduced a naloxone kit program in mid 2015 to counteract fentanyl overdoses, potentially saving users' lives.

The antidote must be administered within minutes to be effective.

Confirmed

deaths in Calgary

between Jan. 1

and June 30,

The government has allowed more medical workers to inject and prescribe naloxone and plans to create more spaces for users to get kits in 2016.

By the Numbers:

- 707 people in the province have acquired naloxone kits.
- 3,000 are available for people to access.
- 51 naloxone kits have reversed fentanyl overdoses.

We're all troubled by this. We all live in the community, and it's far beyond a police problem — it's a health crisis and the worst drug we have seen in our careers.

Sgt. Martin Schiavetta, Calgary Police Service drug unit

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Karen Dunwoody says she forgets her pain when she gets to touch therapy dog Twillow. JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

Puppy love eases pain

Dogs Twillow and Tala make hospital visit



Jeremy Simes For Metro | Calgary

Amid a chaotic hospital room full of patients seeking comfort, Twillow seemed to just know where to go: the German shepherd headed out the door and into the hallway, locating a man who was recovering from a gruesome car crash.

Twillow approached the man and licked him gently. For that brief moment, his pain seemed to vanish, according to Straja Linder King, who's seen such moments unfold over and over again.

Linder King — a clinical art therapist and specializes in ani-

mal-assisted psychotherapy took her two pooches, Twillow and Tala, to the Kerby Centre earlier this year to spread love and relieve any pain that patients felt.

Karen Dunwoody sat among a group of 14 at the therapy session that day, eagerly awaiting to shake Twillow's paw and receive her "doggie prayer."

After she gave Twillow a few scratches, Dunwoody said she felt as if the pain from arthritis and

osteoporosis was gone. "I feel calm," she said. "(The dogs) makes me feel alive, comfortable and relaxed. They really make me smile."

"Animals ground us — they teach us every single day how to be better humans, just by how they bring out the best in us.' said Linder King, who teaches a course at the University of Lethbridge that deals with animalassisted therapy.

Artist's work digs deep into her past

There's always a deeper meaning behind Nátalie Slabá's work.

Whether you're to read a guide when viewing Corruption of Perspective — a piece that you must cozy-up in — or viewing her many artworks on display, Slabá will let you know what

you're looking at. Simply titled Natálie's ART, the exhibition draws on her journey to find her voice, Slabá said.

The 17-year-old has moved around a lot, living in the Czech Republic, Ireland, the United States, France and Calgary.

"(Moving) has brought emotional baggage," she said. "So I use art to talk about those experiences through analogies. It helps me understand what the heck happened."

In particular, one piece titled Mirrored Madness - explores how society tends to focus on self image, and how that isolates people, she said.

The colourful piece tells the life of a boy who's surrounded by mirrors, which distort his perceptions of himself. He's always satisfied.

But as soon as he reaches the end of the path, the mirrors are gone and he's alone.

"It's just him and the sky, and he's really small," Slabá said. "It's really important to realize that if you're self-focussed, then you don't have a lot of time to let

Slabá's Mirrored Madness touches on selfishness and lone-

She said she noticed much selfindulgence when moving across the globe, perhaps adding to the isolation she once felt.

"It was pretty hectic growing up," she said, referencing her ballerina piece, which depicts that period of her life.

"I felt really at home at Ireland," she said, "but when I moved here I felt isolated, really alone and super misunderstood.

But since then, Slabá said she feels more stable - she's overcome some barriers.

"I'm kind of free in a way now," she said. "I've been doing my own thing now."

Her exhibition runs until the end of December at Uptown 7th. JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO



Natálie Slabá JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO



📄 CHRISTMAS DRIVE

A gift for every animal at the humane society

This year, every little pooch, kitten, rabbit and lizard will have a gift to open on Christmas morning, thanks to the generosity of Calgarians.

In previous years, the annual Stuff-a-Pooch-Pad Christmas Drive hasn't quite filled a full pooch pad, which is a room the dogs stay in at the

This year, donations filled

"Even through tough economic times, Calgarians are giving however they can," said Sage Pullen McIntosh, community relations. "They're doing everything they can to help us out, and that really just speaks to how great of a community we live in and how lucky we are."

Pullen McIntosh said it's been one of their busiest years, with a number of seizures, so the donations will go a long way. AARON CHATHA/METRO



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Susan Wachowich's video blog about her experience during a home invasion has shone light onto the connection between that crime and two shooting deaths last week.

SCREEN CAPTURE/YOUTUBE/LIVE AWESOMENESS

A darker tale of violence emerges

MAC'S SHOOTINGS

Police confirm 3 people may be involved in home invasion



Querengesser Metro | Edmonton

The links between a home invasion in Sherwood Park and the shootings of two Mac's employees last week continued to grow Wednesday.

Susan Wachowich's recent video blog of her experience being beaten in a home invasion in Sherwood Park on Dec. 13 led to police confirming Wednesday that the Honda Element stolen in the invasion was the same vehicle three murder suspects used five days later - in shootings that took the lives of two Mac's store employees.

Const. Chantelle Kelly of the RCMP in Sherwood Park also confirmed Wednesday police

have not ruled out the possibility that three people were part of the home invasion — though Wachowich's account describes only two men forcing their way inside the house.

"It was between two or three suspects who were inside the home once there was forced entry," Kelly said.

Two Mac's employees were shot and killed at two separate stores the morning of Dec. 18.

Three suspects — two men and a 13-year-old boy — are in custody and face first-degree murder charges.

Kelly said police are investigating any connection between the home invasion, vehicle theft and homicides: "We're still trying to determine whether the individuals involved in the homicide are the same individuals that are responsible for the home invasion."

She also said that police believe the three suspects were looking for specific items, and the house "was chosen for a particular reason." Kelly said police have talked to the home owner to try to determine what that reason could have been and the person has cooperated fully.

In her video blog, Wachowich says two men approached the front door at the Sherwood Park home she was staying at as a guest at about 4 p.m. last Sunday, asking if she would like her walk shovelled of snow.

She says she told them no.

"When I went to close the door, they shoved the door in. I screamed as loud as I could."

Wachowich says the men shoved her to the ground, hit her head, forced her to give up her cellphone and then covered her head with a pillowcase.

"I asked them to let me breathe, and they did that. They were asking where the safe was. I didn't know — I'm a guest in someone's house.

"They kept yelling at me, 'Where's the guns? Where's the money? Where's the safe?""

Kelly said no charges have been laid in connection with the home invasion. WITH FILES FROM ANDREA ROSS/METRO, AND THE CAN-ADIAN PRESS

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Offers end December 31, 2015.















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PARKS DEPARTMENT

Online map of trail upgrades launched



Calgary's Parks department has launched a new online tool for trail and pathway users in the city.

The Parks Pathways 2016 map shows which trails and pathways are scheduled for work in 2016 and beyond, as well as highlighting recently upgraded trails.

Duane Sutherland, pathway and trail lead for the parks department, said the map is a digital form of information that was previously shared in the office.

"Internally we share or work plans every year because we want everyone to know what our plans are in the park space so we're not conflicting," said Sutherland.

In past years, the informa-

tion was usually in PDF form, but Sutherland likes the idea of a live document, which can be updated as needed.

"As plans change, we can add pieces or take piece away. If we find we can't do a missing link because water services has a plan to upgrade a sewer main in that area, we'll postpone it to a future year.'

Coun. Ward Sutherland said people are always looking for information on when city assets will be repaired or upgraded.

He thinks putting this information online is simply the way of the future.

'We're moving into a new direction with technology as a activity. We're putting our roads in there, our transit. And now our parks. We're just trying to make information easy and accessible at the touch of a finger, so they can get



Last Best's Brett Ireland and Johnny's Jereme Bokitch teamed up to revive an old tradition. JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

Space just for guys

TRADITION

Barbershop in bar concept being revived at brewpub



Jeremy Simes For Metro | Calgary

Know of place where you can fetch a pint and a good buzz? No, it's not that kind of "buzz," silly — it's a place where you can sip a cocktail or two and get a haircut or

clean shave. It's a barbershop in a bar.

Jereme Bokitch and Brett Ireland are reviving the old tradition by melding Bokitch's Johnny's Barber + Shop with Íreland's Last Best Brewing & Distilling.

Ireland said he credits his business partner for initially thinking up the idea to link the two concepts.

"It's another service, but it's like live art within the space," he said. "It brings another reason for people to come into it."

But once the bar was completed, Ireland needed someone to take over the space zoned for the barbershop.

So, he approached Bokitch.

"To be honest, I told my wife I wasn't going to check it out," he said with a chuckle. 'I didn't think much of it."

But his wife, Rae, convinced him to go. She would also tag along.

"We walked through these doors, and I was like, "'Oh,

this is cool," Bokitch said. "I like how low it is, how dark it is and the wood. The setup is on the more modern side of a barbershop."

Located in lower floor of Last Best, the speak-easy, prohibition-styled space has since become a hit with bar patrons and barbershop clients when it opened six weeks ago, Ireland added.

"Several times, already, groups of guys will come in for cocktails and see there's a barbershop," he said. "The next thing you know they're all getting cuts and shaves."

Bokitch — who also owns Hedkandi, a Calgary-based hair salon chain - said he always wanted to open a place dedicated to men, while paying homage to the barbershop tradition.

"I think men want something of their own," he said. "You don't have to be in with a bunch of women to get your haircut. Some guys like that and some guys don't want that. It's just different."

Johnny's Karlo Farkas, a barber who describes himself as an "old hat" in the business, said barbershops just aren't the same without cocktails.

"You need to serve drinks to the gentlemen while they're getting a cut or shave," he said. "I think it brings them back to a different time — when you're kind of taken care of a bit more, instead of being rushed out."

In case you were wondering, you can come for just a drink or a haircut. Buzz may or may not be included.





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Refugee deadline approaches

IMMIGRATION

8,000 Syrians in eight days needed to meet federal target



Michael Woods Metro | Ottawa

While many Canadians will soon be sleeping with visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads, hundreds of public servants are working around the clock in pursuit of the federal government's goal to bring 10,000 Syrian refugees here by Dec. 31.

More than 500 public servants — the bulk of them at Canadian government refugee processing centres in Amman, Jordan and Beirut, Lebanon are working to identify, interview, screen and process the refugees before sending them on government flights bound for Toronto and Montreal.

'The people in the field are working incredibly hard and they've improved their techniques," Immigration Minister



Min. John McCallum says the government will have identified the 10,000 refugees who will be on Canadian soil in the coming months. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

John McCallum said Wednesday, back from a visit to Jordan and Lebanon.

"This is something totally new. We've never done anything like this in our history at such speed," he added. "They are doing it as quickly as possible and over the days they are learning to do it smarter and more effectively.

Many of the staff are Canadian Forces members there to help with medical screening and gathering biometric data, such as fingerprints, Mc-Callum said. The two processing centres are now "powerful machines," especially on the medical screening front. Officials are processing 800 medical cases per day in Amman

and Beirut combined, McCallum said.

Many staff are immigration department officials who are interviewing resettlement candidates. There are also Canada Border Services Agency officials, foreign affairs representatives, and embassy staff.

Many public servants have relocated from other posts abroad, McCallum said.

"I met people who have come literally from all over the world — from New York, from Hong Kong, from Mexico - to relocate temporarily in this region to help out on this process," he said.

According to the latest federal government numbers, by Wednesday night the government will have resettled 2,167 Syrian refugees in Canada since Nov. 4. Another 19,510 refugee resettlement applications are in progress.

McCallum said the government's goal is still to bring 10,000 refugees to Canada by the end of the year, but he couldn't guarantee it because there were only eight more days to bring some 8,000 refugees into the country.

He said the government will have granted permanent residency to 10,000 refugees, but didn't guarantee that they will all be on Canadian soil by year's end.

However, he said he's "very confident" the government will reach its ultimate goal of bringing 25,000 Syrian refugees here by the end of February. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

OBSTACLES

'Moving heaven and earth'

The federal government may not meet its goal of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of the year, Immigration Minister John McCallum said Wednesday.

"That certainly remains our target, we are working day and night to achieve it. But there are certain factors outside our control," McCallum told reporters during a briefing on the Syrian refugee effort.

Those factors include the weather, and refugees' potential unwillingness to leave on very short notice, McCallum said.

As of Monday, 1,869 Syrian refugees had arrived in Canada since Nov. 4. Another 300 were due to arrive in Montreal Wednesday evening. That means nearly 1,000 refugees per day would need to arrive in Canada between now and Dec. 31 to meet the government's target.

"We are moving heaven and earth to get them here as quickly as we can but to do it in a way that is correct and appropriate and takes due concern for security, medical and other issues," Mc-Callum said. MICHAEL WOODS/METRO



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Marijuana charges remain in limbo

Many caught waiting for legalization

While Rose Miranda waits for her April court date to face potential charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking, the 65-year-old retired education assistant can't take cannabis for her arthritis.

Mounties have also banned her from contacting anyone at Phoenix Pain Management Society, the medical marijuana dispensary where she volunteered when she was arrested in Nanaimo, B.C.

"I love Baby Trudeau, but he says, 'We're going to fix this.' When? Meanwhile, I have clients who don't have their medication," Miranda said. "I take care of people who are housebound, people in

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Right now, a little gets you a lot.

wheelchairs and people who are poor. They need their medication and right now they can't access it."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has vowed to legalize and regulate marijuana but no timeline is in sight. Meantime, cannabis-related crimes continue to tie up police and court resources, leaving some feeling like they're in legal limbo.

Miranda began using med-

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ical marijuana about two years ago, after she said prescription drugs turned her brain into "mush." She began volunteering at Phoenix, primarily to educate seniors about cannabis as a pain-relief option.

Nanaimo RCMP raided three dispensaries on Dec. 1.

They came in like a SWAT team, guns out, 'Hands up!,' screaming, yelling, terrifying everybody who was in there, said Miranda. THE CANADIAN PRESS



I feel very angry, but defiant, because I know I'm doing the right thing. My conscience is clear. I am not a criminal. Rose Miranda

Village said 'no' to residential school

No, they said.

When officials came to collect children from Jean Marie River for residential school, residents of the remote village in the Northwest Territories said they'd keep their kids at home.

In what may have been unique among First Nations, they decided to build their own

school. And now, as Canadians grapple with the legacy of residential schools, Jean Marie River is trying to commemorate the fact it doesn't have to. "Our community saw that it needed to do something

Chief Gladys 1952 THE CANADIAN PRESS Norwegian. "It was democracy at its finest."

Jean Marie Řiver had about 70 people in 1950. That's about the same as now, but there were many more children back then.

That's what brought the government to town. Officials explained that kids would have to attend a residential school at Fort Simpson — a long journey by boat or dog team.

Norwegian's father Louis, who was chief, was torn.

"Dad really stressed on the importance of our beliefs and values," she recalled. "At the same time, (he) realized there's a dominant society out there, so he really believed we needed to know the ways of the white people for us to survive."

It was the mothers that made up his mind. "When

he heard the mothers crying, echoing through the community ... he himself cried," said Norwegian. "To me, that was the driving force."

The chief began talking to officials about Jean Marie River getting its own school. But the options were residential schools or day schools attached to a hostel where kids

could grab a few days worth of lessons while their parents were in the area to trade.

Not good enough, thought the chief. He had logs shipped and men pitched in and put up a schoolhouse. He made a deal with anthropologists

June Helm and Teresa Carterette, who were looking for a northern community to study.

Books and school materials were shipped from Alberta. Eventually, teachers came, too.

"It gave us a good, solid base as compared to people that went to residential schools that didn't have a nurturing mother, that didn't have a model of how to become a caring mother," Gladys Norwegian said.

"I think it helped me to become comfortable with who I am. I didn't really need to explain to anybody what being an aboriginal person means. I was comfortable in my skin."

"I just remember it with good memories," said Marilyn Hardisty, 61.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



different," said Chief Louis Norwegian in

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I didn't really need to explain to anybody what being an aboriginal person mean. I was comfortable in my skin.

Marilyn Hardisty

Tracking Santa gets technical

CHRISTMAS EVE

Hundreds of volunteers set to keep watch across globe

Peterson Air Force base is getting ready for its annual holiday mission — tracking Santa's storybook sleigh ride around the world.

The North American Aerospace Defence Command has been working for weeks to tackle the one-day mission.

Miles of wire, dozens of computers and 157 telephone lines will greet hundreds of volunteers Thursday, The Colorado Springs Gazette reported.

Volunteers will be answering calls from an estimated 125,000 children



"We keep adding stuff every year," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Kelly after he and a team of airmen taped down phone wires in the call centre Mon-

The call centre in a training building will be staffed for 23 hours and Christmas Eve. Volunteers will also share Santa's location on Facebook and Twitter. Last year, Santa got 1.6 million Facebook likes.

"We start in November,"

Kelly said. 'We have to test every phone before we bring it in

NORAD's 60th year of tracking Santa involves more than the military. The pro-



underwritten by contractors who pay for the phones, the computers and the website.

First lady Michelle Obama is expected to volunteer, with calls forwarded to her on Christmas Eve.

Volunteers will field a growing number of calls from curious kids from outside the United States.

'We get a lot of calls from Europe, Australia and New Zealand," said NORAD's Stacey Knott, who has organized the Santa tracking for three years.

Bilingual volunteers handle the foreign-language in-

On the bilingual front, NORAD, a partnership between the U.S. and Canada, has a distinct advantage.

sible for





monitoring the sea approaches for both nations.

Its control room was originally inside Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs in a shelter designed to withstand a nuclear attack. The control room is now at Peterson Air Force Base, also in Colorado Springs.

NEW JERSEY

Panic over Elf on Shelf

A New Jersey girl called 911 after she touched her Elf on the Shelf.

Police say sevenyear-old Isabelle LaPeruta of Old Bridge was worried because, according to the popular children's book, the AMAZON.COM magic of Christmas



However, police are required to check 911 calls and an officer found the child in tears.

Her mother, Lynanne, says she awoke from a nap to find her daughter trying to shoo an officer out of the house. She says the girl panicked after the elf fell on the floor when she threw a ball.

The officer radioed headquarters: "Isabella apologized. She touched the Elf on a Shelf. She won't call 911 again.'



The great thing about having **Canadian forces here is they** can speak in French.

Canadian Maj. Jennifer Stadnyk



Medical staff move landslide survivor Tian Zeming following surgery in a hospital in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province Wednesday. CHINATOPIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Door gives trapped man space to survive

Squeezed into a narrow room under piles of debris for 67 hours, a young man was saved by a door that trapped his foot but gave him space to survive. Rescuers on Wednesday pulled him from the massive mudslide that hit part of a major manufacturing city in southern China.

In a feeble voice migrant worker Tian Zeming, 21, told rescuers his name and that another person was buried near him, according to authorities. But medical and rescue staff who went down into the rubble

found the second person had not survived.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANDRES PLANA

More than 70 people are still missing after the mountain of construction waste material and mud collapsed at midday Sunday and flowed into an industrial park in Shenzhen.

Zhang Hu, a city vice mayor, told a news conference that four bodies had been found. He said that even though the critical 72hour period to find survivors had passed, they were continuing rescue efforts with a team of 5,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Handset Sale this week.

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24 Thursday, December 24, 2015 World Metr® NEWS

Covert work a fiasco: Report

INTELLIGENCE

Agency finds U.S. efforts in Cuba a mess

Once-secret U.S. government programs in Cuba that included a Twitter-like messaging service and an HIV-prevention work-shop contained inadequate monitoring, conflicts of interest and questions of legal responsibility for those involved, according to an agency watch-dog report this week.

The U.S. Agency for International Development, which oversaw the now-defunct "Cuban Twitter" program and other efforts, didn't have a policy in place to protect sensitive work from subversion by Cuban intelligence officials, the report stated. ZunZuneo, as the text-messaging program was called, was among several of the agency's Cuban civil-society programs designed to bring about democratic change.

The USAID inspector general's report follows a monthslong investigation by The Associated Press last year into concealed U.S. government



A street vendor in Havana passes the time on her smartphone. Once-secret U.S. government programs in Cuba that included a Twitter-like messaging service had inadequate monitoring, according to report this week. RAMON ESPINOSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

work on the island. Those disclosures revealed how one of those companies — working under USAID's supervision — developed ZunZuneo, staged an HIV-prevention workshop to recruit activists in Cuba and infiltrated the nation's hip-hop community.

The report also faulted conflicts of interest, including how family members received grant awards. In one case, an operations manager for Creative Associates International — a Washington-based firm central to the efforts — looked to a family member's technical com-

pany, Nimesa, for consulting.

"Government agencies are subject to public scrutiny," the report stated. "As a government agency, USAID should not tolerate, much less approve, awards that constitute conflicts of interest. Such conflicts, which in ZunZuneo amounted to nepo-

tism, increased the program's vulnerability to fraud, waste and abuse."

The programs run by Creative received sharp criticism from some U.S. lawmakers, who called them "reckless," "boneheaded" and "downright irresponsible." The AP found Cuban artists swept up in the program were detained or interrogated by Cuban authorities, and a secret U.S. hip-hop operation backfired after Cuban authorities found that an independent music festival — one of the largest on the island—was really backed by the Obama administration.

The inspector general's probe found some program documents were missing, including emails sent and received outside of government accounts or on a secure-messaging service called Hushmail. The report found officials also lost messages when USAID employees switched email providers, and the agency's IT staff said "it would be time-consuming to retrieve them."

"As a result, we may be missing relevant communications." as part of its investigation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Man who admits killing refuses mental exam

A man who acknowledges killing three people in an attack on a Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic defiantly told a judge Wednesday that he would not submit to a mental competency evaluation. Robert Dear, 57, who also hopes to represent himself, told Judge Gilbert A. Martinez that competency evaluators would want to "administer the drug treatment and make me a zombie." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE AGGOGNATED TREGG

British Muslim family turned back from U.S. trip

British Prime Minister David Cameron will look into claims that U.S. officials prevented a British Muslim family of 11 from flying to Disneyland. Labour MP Stella Creasy said U.S. officials gave no explanation for refusing to allow her constituents to board a flight from Gatwick Airport on Dec. 15. Mohammed Zahid Mahmood said they were told nothing except that they were not allowed to travel to the U.S.

tion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE FEAR MIXED WITH CHEER

French police and a soldier patrol near a Santa Claus model in Nice, southeastern France, Wednesday. France's interior minister says the government will tighten security around Christmas, amid continued concerns about potential extremist violence after deadly attacks last month. LIONEL CIRONNEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Junta claims mass approval

GOVERNMENT

Thailand's military rulers say poli shows 99% rating

It's the kind of poll result you'd see in a North Korean election or Saddam Hussein's Iraq: Thailand's military-ruled government says 99 per cent of the country's people are happy with its performance since it took power in a coup last year.

The junta has relentlessly pursued critics, jailing them for attempting to stage protests, lighting candles or even hitting the "like" button on Facebook, yet says the poll released Tuesday shows an astonishing majority of Thais are satisfied with its performance.

The survey conducted by the government-run National Statistical Organization found that 98.9 per cent of respondents were satisfied and confident in the government's performance, said government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd. He did not disclose the margin of error of the survey, but said 2,700 people nationwide were polled from Nov. 27 to Dec. 4.

However, the number of respondents and dates they were polled varied depending on the government source.

Deputy government spokesman Werachon Sukondhapatipak said over 7,000 people





PM Prayuth Chan-ocha THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

PM seeks harmony with new song for country

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the temperamental but tuneful head of Thailand's military junta, has written a song as a present to his fellow citizens. He said his new song, Because You Are Thailand, is an appeal to all Thais to join with him in overcoming the crisis that besets Thailand, an apparent reference to divisions that caused sometimesviolent political conflicts over the past decade. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

were polled earlier in December. The statistics office that conducted the poll said 3,900 people were surveyed from Nov. 2 to 10 — and that 98.6 per cent of them expressed satisfaction with the government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RACIAL TENSIONS

Black Lives Matter protest hits Minneapolis

olis-St. Paul International Airport on Wednesday as protesters blocked roads and caused significant traffic delays after they moved from a rally that briefly shut down the Mall of America.

A rally at the mall was organized by Black Lives Matter activists to bring attention to the police shooting of Jamal Clark, a black man in Minneapolis. The protesters want video released.

urged protesters to stop blocking access to part of the airport. He said releasing video of officers' altercation with Clark could jeopardize investigations.

About 500 protesters initially gathered at the Mall of America early Wednesday afternoon. The mall sought a court order blocking the planned protest. A judge on Tuesday barred three organizers from attending the demonstration, but didn't have the power to block unidentified



Police arrest one of the 500 protesters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lives Matter from showing up.

Kandace Montgomery, one of three organizers, said the group wasn't deterred by the ban. Montgomery said the retail mecca was the perfect venue for their demonstration to pressure authorities involved in the investigation of Clark's death to release video footage.

"When you disrupt their flow of capital ... they actually start paying attention," she said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mining may go Uber way

INDUSTRY

Abitibi CEO wants to pull stodgy sector into new age

At 31, Ian Ball became one of the youngest mining company presidents on Bay Street at Mc-Ewen Mining, which operates in four countries. His boss was none other than legendary gold mining magnate

Rob McEwen. A year after being promoted to the top spot, Ball called up the CEO of Abitibi Royalties (Glenn Mullan) "and told

him I wanted lan Ball TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE to replace him," jokes Ball. Today,

at 34, Ball has that CEO job and is implementing the innovative ideas that got him there.

Last summer, under Ball's leadership, Abitibi launched 'The Royalty Search", an online platform where struggling exploration companies and prospectors can submit a property for consideration to have their annual staking costs or property taxes paid for in exchange for a royalty.

Knowing that the mining industry works slowly as it moves from discovery to excavation, Ball insists the sector needs to refine its business model.

'Look at Uber and Airbnb," he says. "They both support market valuations equal or

larger than the world's largest gold miners, but don't own anything. ... At their heart, they are royalty companies getting a percentage of a sale. How do you bring that to mining?'

Ball figures his company's approach with the royalty search helps junior miners survive the ongoing bear market, and gives them a leg up on much bigger, established competitors in the same game.

"I have very clear goals for myself," says the Bowmanville, Ont., native. "One

was to run a gold company, but when I left McÉwen Mining I set out to build the best gold company in the world," he says quite seriously.

"That might seem like a boastful statement, but

when measured by share price and performance, I don't think it is inconceivable considering the foundation we have at Abitibi Royalties. And I wanted to do something on my own, starting small in order to show people that nothing was given," says Ball.

Veteran mining analyst John Ing remembers when a keen and fresh-faced Ball began working with McEwen at Goldcorp in his early 20s.

"Robbie likes to hire young people who are unconstrained in their thinking about the mining business, and Ian was certainly one of them," recalls Ing of Maison Placements Canada Inc.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



ONLINE SECURITY HELLO KITTY FIRM SAYS LEAK PLUGGED Tourists ride on a sightseeing bus painted with a Hello Kitty character in Tokyo. Sanrio Co., the Japanese company that owns the Hello Kitty brand, said it has fixed a security leak on the SanrioTown.com fan site that compromised the personal information of 3.3 million users, including 186,261 minors. The leak was discovered on Saturday by a security researcher. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Apps cater to tardy shoppers

Procrastinators, rejoice. This year there are more apps and services than ever before to help last-minute shoppers.

Apps like Curbside deliver orders directly to the trunk of your car, more retailers are offering incentives to buy online and pick up in store, and Amazon Prime Now and other same-day delivery services have vastly expanded this year.

Retailers are adding incen-

tives so more people choose "buy online, pick up in store" options. Macy's offered a \$10 e-gift card on a purchase of \$50 or more when an online order is picked up in store via coupon aggregator RetailMeNot. The option lets retailers save on expedited shipping costs and cuts down time for lastminute shoppers.

RetailMeNot's mobile app lets shoppers take advantage

of last-minute deals in store too. The app uses a combination of GPS and Wi-Fi signals to pull deals from stores you are in or nearby when you opt in.

Those seeking deals on sameday delivery will find them, too. Shopify, which provides merchants with online checkout services, said its retailers were partnering with Uber to provide free same-day delivery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Calgary Hays Progressive Conservative Constituency Association including the communities of Quarry Park, Douglasdale, Douglas Glen, McKenzie Lake, Mountain Park, McKenzie Towne, Prestwick, Elgin, Inverness and Shepard Industrial Park

The Calgary Hays PC Constituency Association will hold their AGM on January 14th, 2016 at 7:30pm at the McKenzie Lake Community Association, 16198 McKenzie Lake Way SE, (main floor meeting room off the Gym) for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors. Those who hold a 2016 Progressive Conservative Association Membership in the Calgary Hays Constituency are eligible to attend. Memberships may be purchased at the

> For further information please contact Kelly at 403.542.2332





For the perfect Christmas dinner, says Oxford University gastrophysicist Charles Michel, add a dollop of jam to your

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Are you as smart as Metro's favourite feline philosopher?

Our resident snuggly scholar has collected snippets of the best holiday wisdom for you to ponder as you celebrate the season. See how many guips you can match to their authors. And have a meowy Christmas, happy holidays and a healthy and safe new year.





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URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



You may or may not believe in Jesus Christ, but it's hard to argue the man didn't pull off one major miracle: He used a rudimentary form of social media that involved a scattered entourage jotting down tweets on vellum, but more than 2,000 years after his death, his birthday is still an event of global significance.

Admittedly, the manner in which his followers now celebrate the day might give him pause. Overspending on toys and gadgets. Committing the sin of gluttony for days on end. Pretending a fat guy from the North Pole uses levitating caribou to carry out billions of B&E's in one night via outdated home-heating systems. It's a strange way to honour the life of a poverty-stricken prophet who preached love and humility.

But far be it from me to

Because God knows I'd hate to be judged.

And there you have it, folks: the biggest gift of all. The golden rule that JC expounded during his all-too-brief career as a public motivational speaker and Messiah: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Which is pretty much what I've been saying for almost a year in this etiquette column. Not that I'm comparing myself to Jesus Christ. Obviously, that is not for me to say.

What I am saying is that the spirit of Christmas is based on the same principle that is at the core of good manners, i.e., putting the comfort and concerns of others ahead of your own.

These kinds of manners have nothing to do with etiquette per se — it's not about which fork to use with the escargots or how to address a peer should you be invited to brunch with the House of Lords. Those kinds of rules are

There you have it, folks: the biggest gift of all. The golden rule that JC expounded during his all-too-brief career as a motivational speaker and Messiah: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

too often used by the privileged (a.k.a. lucky) to make 'lesser" folk feel bad and excluded, which is the opposite of good manners. What I'm family talking about should you find is the kinds of impeccably good vourself manners that are based separated from in love - love for thy neighthem this year. bours, love for thine own So allow me to

sense of being a decent, moral suggest a gift-giving idea that anyone can afford and is firm-What could be simpler, ly on message with the season. right? Be nice to everybody Why not give the gift of while everybody is also nice to good manners, all year long? you. If we all embraced it for

so easy a child could understand it! And yet ... it's so hard! (And believe me, it's twice as hard for someone who writes a national etiquette column. The pressure in my personal life not to be a total jerk is considerable.)

just one single day, we'd in-

world peace. Good lord, it's

stantly have another miracle:

It's also hard to buy into the baby-Jesus-peace-and-love message of Christmas when we're drowning in a sea of insidiously sentimental, tinsel-laden, bank-breaking exhortations to buy, buy, buy. Not to mention the stress of pretending to get along with everyone in your crazy family over turkey. Not to also mention the stress of desperately missing your crazy

The spirit of **Christmas is** based on the same principle that is at the core of good manners.

Help wrangle a stroller onto the streetcar even when you're frantically late. Be more patient with frazzled store clerks, harried servers and amateur pedestrians who clog up sidewalks or stop dead at the tops of escalators. Talk to the oldest, loneliest person in the room at a party full of otherwise sexy, powerful dynamos. Listen — really listen — to the most annoying relative in your family. Drop your indifference to a neighbour/partner/co-worker you take utterly for granted, and let what they want and feel actually register in some non-judgmental corner of your brain (it may take some looking, but you'll find it). I guarantee these small but

genuinely heroic efforts will bring you a little closer to the peaceful, loving world we all crave, whether you're religious

Good luck. And Merry Christmas from everyone at Metro!

Need advice? **Email Ellen:** scene@metronews.ca

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MOVIES GOSSIP TELEVISION BOOKS

Poulter 'pushed to the brink'

The Revenant actor finds chaos of shoot rewarding

Richard Crouse



Stories about The Revenant's rough and tumble shoot have already passed into legend. Harsh filming conditions it was minus 40 degrees with windchill factor for much of the Alberta shoot — turned the outdoor revenge drama into what one crew member called "a living hell."

One of the film's stars says he was "confused and stressed" during the shoot, but wouldn't have had it any other way.

"It is something that I am only able to analyze and realize in hindsight," says English actor Will Poulter. "I spent the entire experience peppered with these moments of total confusion and emotional stress; in a turmoil. Now I realize that is what I needed to experience. I wouldn't have ever wanted to really gain control because then I wouldn't have been experiencing anything realistic or wouldn't have captured anything we needed. I'm glad for those moments."

The 22-year-old, hot off the success of The Maze Runner and We're the Millers, appears alongside Leonardo DiĈaprio



British actor Will Poulter portrays legendary mountain man Jim Bridger in the epic frontier adventure The Revenant. CONTRIBUTED



It's an exploration of how much we can take as humans and what motivates us to endure these kinds of conditions.

Will Poulter on his latest film The Revenant

and Tom Hardy in the gritty vengeance drama about fur trapper Hugh Glass, a frontiersman who became a legend

when he trekked across harsh country after being left for dead following a brutal bear attack. Poulter plays Jim Bridger,

an inexperienced fur trapper caught in an impossible situation - torn between loyalty to Glass, his responsibility to his employers and his moral obligations.

"On many occasions (director) Alejandro (Iñárritu) let me be because I was naturally confused and stressed by being pulled in many directions and not knowing what to do.

He often thought the most appropriate thing to do was to allow me to be that. I would turn to him and say, 'I don't know what to do here,' and he would say, 'Why are we even having this conversation?' The character doesn't know what's going on, so why should I?"

The Revenant is the cinema of misery: a primal story that puts its characters through

"I think this movie is about the human spirit and I think what Alejandro strove to achieve was a film that explored what humans are able to endure and what is worth enduring in this kind of experience. Is it family? Is it money? Is it simply the will to live another day in an environment you love and feel safe in? It's an exploration of how much we can take as humans and what motivates us to endure these kinds of conditions."

Poulter says The Revenant is "an emotionally affecting experience," and adds, "there was no creating that without experiencing a lot of the hardships for real." The gruelling outdoor shoot took place on 12 different locations in three different countries including Canada, United States and Argentina from October 2014 to August 2015. Thinking about the shoot Poulter remembers the hard times with pride.

"The moments that stick out most for me are those moments where I felt I was pushed to the brink emotionally and physically but achieving the shot or getting the take. Ending the day was just unbelievable. There are a few of those days that stick out in my mind and that's why it was so rewarding. It's one thing to finish a hard day's (work) and pat one another on the back. It's another thing to finish a day you didn't actually think you could get through and then pat each other on

A trailer for the trailer: Advertising a year before the release

The anti-hero adventure film Suicide Squad isn't due out until August 2016, but fans already have a taste, thanks to a teaser trailer that debuted in July - while shooting was still underway.

The recently released Star Wars: The Force Awakens also had a teaser trailer out over a year in advance, as does the J. K. Rowling-written Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, due out next November.

Distributors have been posting teaser trailers well ahead of a film's release for over a decade, with 2003's The Da Vinci Code

cited as a trailblazer. But experts say it's now become more commonplace, and in some cases, the teasers now have their own

It's a way of creating early awareness in the increasingly congested entertainment world, making the trailer more important than ever.

"When you're up against Marvel movies and Disney movies and these movies with the Happy Meals in your face, it's harder for independent films to dance between the raindrop and find those eyeballs," says Elevation



It's harder for independent films to dance between the raindrop and find those eveballs.

Elevation Pictures co-president Laurie May

Pictures co-president Laurie May. "So the more you can start to create the awareness, I think

Traditional marketing of a big film used to be based on a tightly controlled strategy that included on-set media junkets and trailers to get the word out.

Now, actors, directors and onset photographers can post their own material on social media in real-time during production, easily and relatively cheaply.

"The social media strategy is now an inherent part of virtually every single film that gets made, says Piers Handling, director and CEO of the Toronto International

But for all the buzz social media can provide in the promotion of a film, the trailer still remains tops.

"In terms of marketing materials or any sort of interaction with the marketing of a movie or a TV show, the trailer is still the No. 1 most effective piece of content that goes out," says D'nae Kingsley, chief strategy officer for Trailer Park, a Hollywood-based entertainment and content marketing agency.

Smaller Canadian films don't often get teaser trailers, but Elevation made it happen for writer-director Paul Gross' Hyena Road. A teaser for the Afghan war drama came out nearly a year before it hit theatres in October, followed by a second trailer closer to theatrical release.

"This one we needed to breed the awareness of it early and just keep it in everyone's mind," says Gross, noting its release date coincided with the busy Thanksgiv-

Those who make trailers say the basic approach remains the same: they have to be compelling and leave an impression.

But the creative touches in them are ever-evolving.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alejandro González Iñárritu, left, directs Leonardo DiCaprio on the set of The Revenant. CONTRIBUTED

Director wondered if Leo could grow a beard

SUFFERING FOR HIS ART LEONARDO DICAPRIO ATE RAW BISON. HE STRIPPED NAKED IN SUB-ZERO

TEMPERATURES. HE EVEN JUMPED INTO AN ICY RIVER.

FILMMAKING

Real facial hair essential to lead role in The Revenant

Alejandro G. Inarritu knew Leonardo DiCaprio would go to the ends of the earth to make the 19th century survival epic The Revenant exactly as the famously meticulous director wanted.

For Inarritu, DiCaprio was the best person to play Hugh Glass, a real-life fur trapper who survived a bear mauling and then went to find his mates who left him for dead in the unforgiving wilderness. Over the course of the nearly yearlong production, the Oscar-nominated actor and environmentalist proved his commitment over and over. He ate raw bison. He stripped naked in sub-zero temperatures. He even jumped into an icy river. But, early on, Inarritu had one very specific worry: Could DiCaprio grow a beard?

"You cannot shoot this film with a fake beard. It would look terrible," Inarritu said in a recent interview. "Not every man grows so much hair in his face. That was a bet."

Thankfully for the director, Di-Caprio sprouted a gnarly, unruly beard that becomes a symbol of where exactly his character is on his journey, and how deeply he's devolved. Makeup added dirt on a daily basis, and a combination of glycerin and grit gave his hair that unwashed, bloody look the look of someone who'd survived a bear attack.

It's a minor thing, and perhaps the easiest test DiCaprio had to endure to make the sprawling epic, but it's one of those details that illustrate the overall production's commitment to authenticity.

"It's a really primal story of man and the natural world," said DiCaprio in a recent phone interview. "It's almost bib-

In an era of computer generated imagery and other post-production fixes, this was an unconventional shoot from the outset. Inarritu travelled with his crew to Cal-

gary, Alberta and then to Argentina when the Canadian snow melted earlier than expected. As if shooting on location isn't hard enough, he and cinematographer Emmanuel "Chivo" Lubezki also opted to shoot only in natural light, giving the production a mere 90 minutes a day to achieve complex, highly choreographed long takes. The duo had done this before in Birdman, but never in the unpredictable wilderness.

But DiCaprio knew very well what he was signing up for. "When you're out in the elements like this — and there are people who have much harder jobs than people making a movie — but you just appreciate the endurance of man and how we're able to adapt to circumstances," DiCaprio said. "You're signing on to find elements that will ultimately transform the narrative and find the poetry. ... It was all basically us really putting ourselves in this environment and seeing what happens."

Partly by nature of the story and partly for the sake

of his character, DiCaprio largely isolated himself from the rest of the cast, including his friend Tom Hardy.

He studied the life of Hugh Glass and the lives of fur

trappers at the time. He learned and practiced the choreography for the shots, too. But when it came time for the cameras to roll, everything became very animalistic—a largely silent performance rooted in instinct and reaction.

"For me it was about really thinking these thoughts and really trying to feel this man's pain," DiCaprio said.

"Leo thinks like a filmmaker more than an actor," Inarritu said. "He understands the whole. He was able to be not only a machine doing exactly what we agreed in a natural way but at the same time be absolutely present to react to any improvisation. That's when I felt that this is one of the greatest actors."

Little remains of DiCaprio's full mountain man transformation externally. Production wrapped. He shed the beard. The bumps and bruises healed. But the grit of the shoot, the trials and tribulations, the tension of getting that perfect shot, it's all left on the screen — particularly in the bear attack.

"I think it will go down in history as one of the most voy-euristic action sequences ever created," DiCaprio said. "You feel the blood and the sweat. You almost smell the bear. It accomplishes what movies do at their best which is to really make you feel like the rest of the world has evaporated and you're singularly in that moment."

Inarritu wants to keep the specifics of how exactly he achieved such a harrowing sequence to himself. Revealing the process would destroy the magic of it all, he said.

"I wanted for people (to) feel the cold, smell the fear," he said. "It was difficult but that's what we were supposed to do. Nobody should care. Nobody should be bothered with having a good time or not. That's not the purpose of doing a film."

"Judging by the results I would not change a bit."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WAYS JUDD APATOW FIXED FUNNY



Judd Apatow is a millennial Renaissance man. As the director of movies like The 40-Year-Old Virgin and Knocked Up and the producer of such flicks as Superbad, Pineapple Express (above) and Anchorman, Apatow has used his voice to champion a new kind of storytelling in comedy. Here's how:

- **1. He launched the raunchy comedy.** Hollywood execs in the 1990s kept most comedies broad PG-13 fare aimed at teenage boys. The 40-Year-Old Virgin (2005) was an R-rated film that explored awkward middle age. And we were all the richer for it.
- **2. He built a bridge between the '90s and today.** Apatow got his start working with Garry Shandling, Jim Carrey, Adam Sandler and Ben Stiller stars that defined 1990s comedy.
- **3.** He rejected the star system. In his own productions, Apatow is known for taking chances with unknown or under-appreciated talents, such as Seth Rogen, Melissa McCarthy and Steve Carell. After working with Carell on Anchorman (2004), he encouraged the Daily Show alumnus to write the story for The 40-Year-Old Virgin.
- **4. He plays well with others.** Apatow encourages collaborative filmmaking, such as on-set improv, which in turn leads to some of the funniest outtakes in the biz.
- **5.** He's a friend to the underdog. Apatow loves subcultures. From the sleepy stoners being chased by drug lords in Pineapple Express to the awkward high-school seniors facing separation anxiety in Superbad, he shows that even losers get lucky sometimes.
- **6. That's because the journey is half of the fun.** In the Apatow-verse, side chatter and witty wordplay get as much airtime as action scenes and gags. It makes relationships between characters feel more real.
- **7. He knows women are funny.** Apatow has provided a platform for strong female performers such as Catherine Keener in The 40-Year-Old Virgin and Leslie Mann in Funny People. He's also nurtured Lena Dunham (Girls), Amy Schumer (Trainwreck) and Kristen Wiig, who co-wrote one of his biggest hits, Bridesmaids.

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Comedy lifts the curtain on Wall Street

Anchorman director tackles the financial crisis

Richard Crouse For Metro Canada

Adam McKay is best known for directing broad comedies with Will Ferrell like Anchorman and Step Brothers. But his new film, The Big Short, is a different beast.

It's the story of how four investment-bankers — played by Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Finn Wittrock and John Magaro — saw the devastating financial meltdown of 2007-10 coming when no one else did. It's a lighthearted look at a dire situation. Call it a dramedy.

"When I read this book it did everything I wanted to see in a movie," he says. "It was funny, it was tragic, and the characters were amazing. I think it was a case of running into one of the great books of the last 20 years that shows what is really going on in our modern world.

McKay knows how to milk a laugh out of a scene but he also knows that the level of understanding the viewer needs to get why the housing bubble burst is above the level of most MBAs.

"It's like 2 + 2 = fish," says one banker, expressing disbelief at the financial manipulations used by the big banks. In the film he takes pains to explain how Wall Street likes to use confusing terms to make you



Christian Bale stars in The Big Short, directed by Adam McKay. Even McKay's big, broad absurdist comedies have germs of subversive ideas embedded in them, but here the director confronts political ideas head-on in a hard-to-pin-down format. CONTRIBUTED

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My goal is that it demystifies this world for some people. That it just takes away that feeling of, like, we're too dumb to understand it.

Director Adam McKay

think only they can understand what they do.

"We wanted to be the first Wall Street movie that took you behind the curtain, that really said, All these confusing terms you hear, all the ways the banks make you feel stupid or bored ... it's actually not that hard. If the guy who did Step Brothers can understand it you can too.

"We were trying to show that this thing that half of Wall Street doesn't understand, these derivatives, mortgage backed securities, they're actually pretty easy. They bundled a bunch of mortgages, they sold them, made a ton of money. Then they ran out of good mortgages so they put crappy mortgages in and coerced the ratings agencies to give them AAA. That's it. That's the whole story.

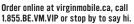
McKay has an a-list cast but he didn't want to make the movie all about the stars.

"It would have been very easy to just do this character story and just show these guys being affected by it but I wanted this thing to bridge a gap. I think there is too much stuff in our society where people just think, 'Ahhh banking! It's boring. Politics! Who cares?' The truth is, this stuff is exciting, It's the language of power. Once you get hooked on it, it gets addictive."

The Big Short is a look at our recent past, but McKay warns this is not a historical drama or cautionary tale, rather it's very much a going concern.

"All the effects of this collapse are still completely in play. All the same questions are still in play and they fixed a few things but they didn't fix the main, weight bearing beam beams that caused this problem. So this is an active story right this second. That is one of the main reasons we made this movie, we want people to understand that. This isn't













Now playing



The Hateful Eight

Director: Quentin Tarantino Starring: Samuel L. Jackson,

Set after the Civil War, a stagecoach hurtles through the wintry Wyoming landscape. The passengers, bounty hunter John Ruth and his fugitive Daisy Domergue, race towards the town of Red Rock.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics: Audience:



85% + **98%**





DRAMA Concussion

Director: Peter Landesman Starring: Will Smith, Gugu Mbatha-Raw

This dramatic thriller is based on the incredible true David vs. Goliath story of Dr. Bennet Omalu, the brilliant forensic neuropathologist who made the first discovery of CTE, and a sports-related brain trauma in a pro player who fought for the truth to be known.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics: Audience:







Daddy's Home

Director: Sean Anders Starring: Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg

A mild-mannered radio executive strives to become the best stepdad to his wife's two children, but complications ensue when their freewheeling and freeloading real father arrives, forcing him to compete for the affection of the kids.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE





Joy

Director: David O. Russell Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Robert DeNiro

This is the wild story of a family across four generations centered on the girl who becomes the woman who founds a business dynasty and becomes a matriarch in her own right.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics:





63% 🕇 96%



DRAMA/ROMANCE Carol

Director: Todd Haynes Starring: Cate Blanchett, Kyle Chandler

A young woman in her 20s, Therese Belivet is a clerk working in a Manhattan department store and dreaming of a more fulfilling life when she meets Carol, an alluring woman trapped in a loveless, convenient marriage.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics: Audience:





DRAMA/COMEDY

Sisters

Director: Jason Moore Starring: Tina Fey, **Amy Poehler**

Two disconnected sisters are summoned home to clean out their childhood bedroom before their parents sell the family house. Looking to recapture their glory days, they throw one final highschool-style party for their classmates,

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE Critics: Audience:



89%



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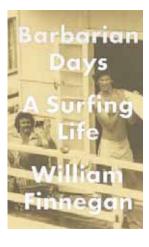
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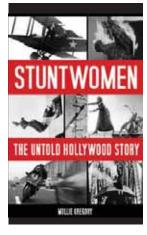


BOOKS TO ESCAPE THE HOLIDAYS WITH

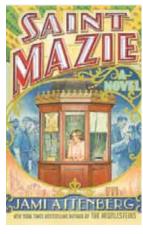
As wonderful as Christmas can be, sometimes we all need a break from the yuletide cheer and books can provide the perfect escape. Here are a few recent titles worth checking out before ringing in 2016.

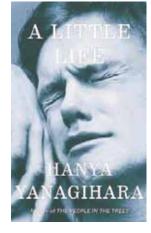
SUE CARTER/FOR METRO













Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life

For those who dream of trading a white Christmas for sand and suntan lotion, William Finnegan's memoir Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life (Penguin) is as close as you'll get without dipping your toes in the ocean.

The longtime New Yorker writer shares stories from his life chasing the perfect waves in Hawaii and other exotic locales, providing landlubbers with insider observations of a cultish pursuit mastered by few.

It's rare that a sports memoir offers such breathtaking prose.

2 Stuntwomen: The Untold Hollywood Story

If surfing doesn't provide enough adrenaline to get you out of the turkey slump, there's Mollie Gregory's Stuntwomen: The Untold Hollywood Story (University Press of Kentucky). Gregory returns to the golden age of film, when women first kicked, leapt and drove their way through silent films.

Through 65 interviews with action doubles (including a sister team who have appeared in more than 160 movies), Gregory sheds feminist insight into these unacknowledged kick-butt heroes of cinema.

3 Canadian Pacific: The Golden Age of Travel

Anyone who travelled long distance over the holidays can attest to the fact that the experience has lost the glamour of yesteryear.

Barry Lane's photo-rich Canadian Pacific: The Golden Age of Travel (Goose Lane Editions) harkens back to when the transcontinental railway and its hotels stood for beauty, adventure and romance.

▲ Saint Mazie

If you're looking for an escape from your family, spend some time with Jami Attenberg's funny, witty Saint Mazie (Grand Central Publishing).

Inspired by the true story of wisecracking Mazie Philips — think Dorothy Parker meets Mother Theresa -Attenberg brings to life the philanthropic theatre tickettaker who lived in New York during the Depression.

No one writes larger-thanlife, complicated but ultimately sympathetic female protagonists like Attenberg.

A Little Life

Sometimes when it comes to books, bigger is better (it can also signal to others that you're not to be disturbed.) If you're looking for a title with some weight both in subject and length — there's Marlon James' Man Booker Prize-winning violent epic A Brief History of Seven Killings, about a fictional assassination of Bob Marley; Garth Hallberg's ode to 1970s New York, City on Fire; and Hanya Yanagihara's disturbing A Little Life, which follows the unlikely friendship between four college

6 I Can't Believe it's **Not Better**

Before making any New Year's resolutions, check out Monica Heisey's funny I Can't Believe it's Not Better: A Woman's Guide to Coping With Life (Red Deer Press).

The Toronto comedian and writer eschews the inspirational self-help schlock for solid life advice, like how cry in public and eat in bed (a "Bed Buffet" of pasta or Fruit Loops is best enjoyed with Netflix, wearing a uniform of sweatpants and T-

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Mary-Louise Parker writes about men

Actress submitted collection anonymously

The latest round of raves for Mary-Louise Parker is not for her acting, but for her writing.

Parker's Dear Mr. You, a collection of lyrical and often emotional essays about men addressed to everyone from former (and unnamed) lovers to family members, NASA and a Sept. 11 firefighter, has been highly praised by critics. Essayist Leslie Jamison, memoir writer Mary Karr and poet Kevin Young are among those who have appeared with her during her promotional tour.

Parker is a prize-winning actress who has never wanted to be treated like a celebrity, or like a celebrity author. Dear Mr. You was originally submitted to publishers with her name withheld by literary agent Eric Simonoff, whose clients include Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction writers Jhumpa Lahiri and Edward P. Jones.

"I was immediately intrigued

by the prose," said editor Colin Harrison of Scribner, which acquired the book. "It was startling, electric — it beckoned, it provoked, it zapped up the energy level of the reader."

Drinking coffee at a Brooklyn cafe on a warm winter morning, the 51-year-old Parker clearly favours talking about writing over the discussion of acting, or, especially, her personal life. (She lives in Brooklyn with her two children, one of whom she had with the actor Billy Crudup). While a Golden Globe winner for the TV series Weeds and HBO film Angels in America and a Tony winner for Proof, she has for years been contributing essays to Esquire, The Riveter and other magazines.

She is an admirer of poets Mark Strand and Philip Levine among others, and of short story writers Lorrie Moore and Deborah Eisenberg. But highest honours are reserved for her late father, John Morgan Parker, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War who later worked as a bank manager and a justice of the peace among other jobs and took "nearly freakish" pride in his children and grandchildren. In Dear Mr. You, Parker calls him the "wizard of all fathers" and remembers his advice to her soon before his death, in 2010: "Just write, keep

writing, promise that you will." Here are highlights from the

On writing and privacy:

"I am apparently hard to read — not to people Ĭ know — but I hear the same comments often through my life. I guess I feel I can't ignore them - 'What are you thinking?' 'Are you upset?' when I am not upset at all.

"When I do open up, I really open up and am very thorough about what I choose to reveal. ... It also seems very free to know I was the architect of it and I won't be misrepresented. I can be as truthful as I want to be.

On submitting her work to publishers without her name on it:

"I was terrified, but when it

It's not that I saw God, necessarily. but I was in another space. I was not fully conscious. Mary-Louise Parker, on her near death experience



Actress and author Mary-Louise Parker has released Dear Mr. You, essays about men. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

seemed like people were favourable toward it I felt validated in a way I hadn't really felt before. .. People get a little more emotional when it comes to actors and this (book) had none of that behind it. I felt almost as if nothing else happened at least I had that moment people found it interesting and valuable."

On a near-death emergency and hospitalization:

"It's not that I saw God, necessarily, but I was in another space. I was not fully conscious. I was hallucinating. I was speaking gibberish. I was in shock, septic shock, and the question is, Where do you go? Where does your consciousness go when that happens?"

On the sense of gratitude in many of her essays:

"When you're reading my book, I'm putting my thoughts in your head and why would I want to put in something negative? Not that there isn't some immense pain ... But I didn't want there to be an indictment of anyone, or try to elicit sympathy for me in any way. It's a bunch of thank-you notes. That's all there is - just a bunch of thank-you notes." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Telefilm so lame you can't even hate-watch

THE SHOW: A Christmas Melody (W/Hallmark) **THE MOMENT: The feel-bad**

Melissa (Mariah Carey), the self-proclaimed "go-to mom for everyone in Silver Falls, Ohio," stands in the wings during an elementary school holiday pageant. She's wearing a snow-white cardigan and pearls. Her high ponytail and makeup are red-carpet-ready. Consumed with jealousy, she stares at someone on stage: the nine-year-old daughter of Kristen (Lacey Chabert).

Kristen was Melissa's archrival in high school, and she's recently moved back to town. Before the pageant, Kristen tut-tutted to Melissa, "Someone would have to be heartless to want to upstage a nine-year-old." As Carey tries valiantly to knit her brow we realize, someone is.

Can anyone feel good watching alleged-feel-good holiday telefilms like this



Mariah Carey in A Christmas Melody. CONTRIBUTED

one? If so, how?

Budget constraints force their actors to be driving through sunny October leaves one minute and pulling up in "snowy" December Ohio the next. Their dialogue is full of cheesy clunkers like, "You're this amazing wedding dress designer for Butler's department store!" and "You're never too old to believe in Christmas wishes." People must be hate-watching, right?

I tried to liven things up by inventing a drinking game: Ĭf Carey ever changed position in her scenes, I would drink. But I stayed thirsty, because in every one, she stood stock-still and recited her dialog without even moving her head.

And when they referred to Kristen and Melissa's high school graduation in 1998 — even though Chabert was born in 1982 and Carey in 1970 - well, it just became a feel-sad movie, and I went

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Perfectly sized binge watches

It's the holiday season and for many of us who have just a few days off, time is of the essence. Here are five top-shelf shows you can start and finish before you're back to work in 2016:

Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman are perfectly cast as Sherlock Holmes and sidekick Dr. Watson. Each of the three seasons currently available on Netflix have three episodes apiece, each no longer than 90 minutes. You can easily devour all of them in time to catch the newest episode, The Abominable Bride, premiering on PBS on New Year's Day. And prepare for a fourth season scheduled to air in 2017.

Peaky Blinders

This British production — star-ring Cillian Murphy, Sam Neill and Tom Hardy — is set in post-First-World-War Birmingham, England. It centres on the ambitions of a gangster family and a vicious police officer (Neill) bent on their destruction. With only six episodes in its first two seasons, the series will have you begging for more — and you'll be thankful a third season began filming in October.



Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock, CONTRIBUTED

F is for Family

This new animated series on Netflix is the brainchild of star standup comedian Bill Burr. It's a ribald look at a 1970s-era family that evokes elements of All in the Family and King of the Hill and adds liberal doses of expletives. And because the first season has only six half-hour episodes, it's almost a teaser for future seasons.

The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst

This six-episode true crime documentary first aired in February. Filmmaker Andrew Jarecki became intimately familiar with a notorious multimillionaire and New York City real estate heir, and by the time the series ends your jaw will be taking up temporary residence on the floor. Thehorrors inside Durst's mind will resonate in yours long after you've finished watching.

Black Mirror

If you're looking only to be cheery during the holidays, this BBC-produced show isn't for you. But if you're looking for a fascinating, disturbing, brilliant anthology series touching on technology, the future, satire and humanity's dark places, Black Mirror is right up your alley. Once you're done, you'll understand why Netflix has commissioned a third season (of 12 episodes!). There's nothing like it. TORSTAR NEW SERVICE



POP CULTURE MOMENTS THAT MADE HEADLINES IN 2015

The worlds of celebrity and pop culture were filled with attention-grabbing moments over the course of 2015, and sometimes enough similar ones — like when doughnut debacles and bad pics take on a life of their own on the Internet — to constitute a troubling trend. Here's what got our attention this year.

NED EHRBAR METRO IN HOLLYWOOD



Justin Bieber makes a comeback

In 2014, Justin Bieber was Canada's most hated export. But this year, a pop-culture miracle occurred and he is back on top thanks to excessively apologizing and releasing some actually very good new music. Joining forces with Skrillex and Diplo, Bieber's song What Do You Mean? debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 — that, in addition to two other songs dominating the charts.



Amy Schumer's 'last f-able day'

Leave it to comedy's golden girl to bring together the mega-wattage of Tina Fey and Patricia Arquette to toast Julia Louis-Dreyfus' "last fable day" in the Season 3 premiere of her Comedy Central show. Not only hilarious by nature, it threw astute shade at Hollywood's wild standards for women "of a certain age." Schumer returned the favour later this year, appearing in Fey and Amy Poehler's Bad Blood parody on Saturday Night Live. Double props.



The Ballad of

Poot Lovato

As much as Demi Lovato might hate it, the fictitious mutant sister that her family has kept locked in the basement was having a major moment in 2015 - a moment that wouldn't end for the beleaguered singer, with Twitter Q&As and Instagram comment sections continually hijacked by snarky fans concerned about Poot's wellbeing. You can't fight the Internet, Demi.



Taylor Swift's overstuffed squad

Taylor Swift hit the road this year for her 1989 tour and used it as a chance to prove to the world that she knows a lot — and we mean a lot — of famous people (seen here with Selena Gomez), with cameos onstage by the U.S. women's soccer team, Miranda Lambert and Justin Timberlake to name a few. But she wasn't impossible to say no to. Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellan were able to resist her charms. And honestly, Jennifer Lawrence and Amy Schumer dancing on Billy Joel's piano felt much more organic.

6 Ariana Grande's doughnut debacle One way to help make your bubbly young pop-star self seem more relatable? Showing you like to get stoned and skulk around

donut shops, maybe even overstepping your bounds and taste-testing a pastry on the counter, as Ariana Grande did in a great moment caught on camera. Not so helpful? Declaring that you "hate America" after being chastised for your intoxicated

OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO BE DONE.



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Your essential daily news

LG's latest smart vacuum doubles as cleaning device and guard dog

party be under scrutiny — hire a shirtless bartender and

I'm sure this far into the holiday season you've seen your share of unorganized For Me bar setups. Don't let your New Year's

outfit your party with the best bar accessories.







2 Godinger Hammered Stainless Bar Set

All the materials you will need to show off your mixology skills. \$80, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

3 Tom Dixon ARC Corkscrew

Add some designer style to your wine bar. \$88, HopsonGrace.com

Ralph Lauren 2-Piece **Greenwich Double Old-Fashioned Glass Set**

A good drink means serving it in a damn-good glass. \$95, TheBay.com

5 Carter Muddler

Mash and muddle those garnishes for a truly handmade drink. \$18, CrateAndBarrel.com

6 Crabbie's Ginger Beer

Reportedly, a big mainstay for this season's crafty bartenders. \$3.60, CrabbiesGingerBeer.com

Tartan Crock-Pot Classic **Slow Cooker**

A great way to keep those hot toddies and ciders warm throughout the party. \$28, Walmart.ca

Top Shelf Living Set of 9 Whiskey Stones

Let's not water down the issue — no need for ice cubes with these rocks around. \$23, Walmart.ca



Open-concept living in Silverado

Project overview

Get your holiday house shopping on with a luxurious Hunter House home in Calgary's bustling Silverado community. With townhomes and stacked bungalows available, Hunter House is the latest in contemporary living by Streetside Develop-

In the neighbourhood

Silverado is right next to the Shawnessy shopping centre, which hosts a plethora of restaurants, retail amenities and a movie theatre. Mixed in with urban living is more than 150 acres of green space, making Silverado the perfect place for families and nature lovers. ANNA BROOKS/FOR METRO

Housing amenities

All Hunter House homes are uniquely designed and fitted with premium finishings, offering residents the utmost in space and style. These open-concept homes also feature double-car garages, beautiful architecture and manicured landscaping.

Location and transit

Hunter House owners are right next door to the Shawnessy LRT Station and a number of bus routes, making transit travel a breeze. For commuters, Silverado is just a few minutes away from major roadways like Macleod Trail, Highway 22X and Deerfoot Trail

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: Hunter House Builder: Streetside Develop-

Building type: Luxury townhomes and stacked

Sizes: Townhomes at 1,500 sq. ft.; bungalows range from 1,406 to 1,622 sq. ft. Pricing: Townhomes starting at \$368,700; bungalows starting at \$499,900

Model: Three-bedroom floor

Status: Immediate possessions available

Sales centre: 220 Silverado Plains Park SW

Hours: Mondays to Wednesdays 2 to 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12 to 5 p.m. Phone: 403-240-4664

Website: hunterhouseliving.com



'I think I was already sacked': Man United manager Louis van Gaal on reports that Jose Mourinho is in line for his job

Have fun in Helsinki

Stars of the past dish advice to Canada's U-20s

Veterans of the world junior hockey championship say the keys to success are found off the ice: Have fun, soak in the experience and try to avoid distractions online.

"The biggest thing is have fun, enjoy it," said Brad Boyes, who won bronze and silver with Canada in 2001 and 2002 respectively. "It really does go fast. It's been a long time since I've been there. The biggest

thing is enjoy it, compete, win. You might not have another chance to do it.

"You gotta have fun, that's the big- 1997 world junior champion gest thing. Take it for what it is but give it

everything. You don't get a second chance sometimes."

Mike Babcock, who guided Canada to gold in 1997, says that having fun is just as important for the coaches, if not more so, because it's up to them to set the tone for the players, both at training camp and at the tournament itself.

"No. 1 is you've got to enjoy yourself," said Babcock, who

spoke with head coach Dave Lowry and his staff at Canada's selection camp in Toronto. "You got to get the guys very prepared but you've got to enjoy it. It's a grind and it's hard to win but if you enjoy the process you have a better chance.

"The other thing is that preparation's got to be equal to the opportunity, get really prepared and you've got a way better chance of getting lucky and guys playing well.

This year's championship will be played from Dec. 26 to Jan. 6 in Helsinki. While the event has become a holiday tradition across Canada, tournament veterans say the

weight of the nation's expectations don't hit the players until they've begun to play and messages from home start to pile up.

bench boss Mike Babcock. Edmonton Oilers rookie

sensation Connor McDavid, who won gold with Canada last year, suggested that the players on this year's team should unplug from social media because even well-intentioned messages can build pressure. It's a sentiment that has been echoed by Hockey Canada brass and some other veterans of the team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jake Virtanen tucks in one of his two goals in Wednesday's world junior warm-up game against Sweden in Helsinki.

Canada shaky in final WJC tune-up

Mitch Marner scored with less than four minutes to go to cap the scoring in a wild third period, and Canada edged Sweden 7-6 Wednesday in its last exhibition match before the world junior hockey championship.

Canada led 5-1 heading into the third, before Sweden lit up Canada goaltender Mason McDonald with five goals over the final 20 minutes.

"We put ourselves in a very good position after two periods, and we just have to continue





to play and have the ability to close out leads," Canada coach Dave Lowry said.

Marcus Pettersson's second goal of the period at 15:26 tied the game at 6-6 before Marner's goal salvaged the win for

McDonald recovered to make some big saves over the final minutes with Sweden pressing for the tying goal. He ended up stopping 26 of 32 shots.

"He gave us a chance," Lowry said of his goaltender. "He made saves, and he made timely saves."

Vancouver Canucks forward Jake Virtanen had two goals for the Canadians, with Dylan Strome, Mitchell Stephens,

Haydn Fleury and Brendan Perlini also scoring.

Oskar Lindblom, Jacob Larsson, Axel Holmstrom and Adrian Kempe had Sweden's other goals.

Linus Soderstrom gave up five goals on 20 shots before being replaced by Erik Kallgren, who stopped five of seven shots in relief.

Canada opens its defence of the world junior title Saturday against the rival United States. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stamps bring back 'big play' receiver

No. 1 is you've got

to enjoy yourself.

Maple Leafs coach and

The Calgary Stampeders have resigned national receiver Simon Charbonneau-Campeau.

Charbonneau-Campeau recorded three catches for 34 yards in 2015 before suffering a broken leg in the third game of the season. He returned to play in the Western Final and recorded a catch for 39 yards.

"Simon has shown an ability to make big plays as a receiver and he is also a solid contributor on special teams," said Stampeders general manager John Hufnagel in a release. "I look forward to seeing what Simon can do over a full and healthy season."

Charbonneau-Campeau's had his best season in 2014 when he registered 13 catches for 233 yards and a touchdown as well as seven special-teams tackles in 14 regular-season games. He also played in the Western Final and recorded two catches for 74 yards including a 61-yard haul. He had one catch for 28 yards in the Grey Cup.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Simon Charbonneau-Campeau makes a catch against the Eskimos' Cauchy Muamba on Nov. 22 in Edmonton.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beckham's ban stands for Sunday

Odell Beckham Jr. is going to have to serve his one-game suspension.

Hearing officer James Thrash on Wednesday upheld the suspension for multiple violations of safety-related playing rules after hearing an appeal by the New York Giants receiver

earlier in the day. Beckham will

Odell Beckham Jr. GETTY IMAGES

at Minnesota. The second-year Pro Bowler is barred from team meetings; attending or watch-

ing practices; attending Sunday's game; or having contact with any club personnel except to arrange off-site medical treatment or rehabilitation. He will be reinstated next Monday.

The NFL suspended Beckham on Monday.

HE ASSOCIATED PRESS

42 Thursday, December 24, 2015 metr#sports

Drones banned after nearly hitting racer

it was, but I felt

something.

The international ski federation is banning camera drones from its World Cup races after

one of the flying objects crashed and nearly hit Austrian skier Marcel Hirscher during a slalom in Italy.

FIS will prohibit drones "as long as I am re-

sponsible ... because they are a bad thing for safety," race director Markus Waldner said Wednesday, a day after the incident. "It was huge luck that Marcel was not hurt," Waldner said. "I am very angry."

The drone carrying a TV cam-

era came down and shattered on the icy slope just behind Hirsch-I didn't know what er, a few seconds after the Olympic silver medallist started his second run.

Skier Marcel Hirscher The company

responsible for the drone, sports marketing agency Infront, said its initial investigation "indicates a malfunction of the drone." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The past 12 months have been laden with spectacular moments that will be talked about for a long time to come. The following plays made fans leap from their seats in disbelief and grab their phones to share the excitement — the most memorable from 2015.

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Joey Bats' bat flip

Game 5 of the American League Division Series, tie game, seventh inning. Who better than a guy who goes by "Joey Bats" - real name, Jose Bautista — to deliver? Bautista connected on a nodoubt, three-run home run that would eventually lift Toronto to a series-clinching victory over Texas, punctuating the hit by admiring the drive from the plate for a moment before flipping his bat in celebration.





The Butler did it ... in the Super Bowl

Seattle was a yard away from a touchdown that would have almost certainly given the Seahawks a Super Bowl win. New England's Malcolm Butler — an undrafted rookie signed as a free agent - changed all that. With the Seahawks electing to not give the ball to Marshawn Lynch and trying to score through the air Butler perfectly read a slant pass from Russell Wilson, and made the interception that clinched the title for the Patriots.

Holly's kick heard round the world

Ronda Rousey was unbeatable. Then again, everyone is until it actually happens. And unheralded Holly Holm erased Rousey's air of invincibility in an instant. With one swift left-footed kick that caught Rousey on the right side of the head, Holm won their UFC fight and became the women's champion of their sport — setting up a rematch coming in 2016 that should be one of the biggest events of the year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTOS — BAUTISTA: CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS; BUTLER: KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; HOLM: PAUL CROCK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



RECIPE Sweet Potato and Split Pea Soup



Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh For Metro Canada

This simple, hearty soup is packed with as much nutrition as it is with comfort factor.

Ready in

Prep time: 1 hour 15 minutes Serves 6

Ingredients

- 8 1/2 cups water
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cup dried yellow split peas
- •1 Tbsp freshly grated ginger • 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp toasted pumpkin seeds

Directions

1. Place a large sauce pan over medium heat and fill with 1/2 cup water and onion, allow to cook

until onions are translucent. Add ginger and simmer for 2 minutes. Add remaining 8 cups of water, sweet potato and peas to pot and bring to a boil.

- 2. After a few minutes, reduce the temperature and cover soup. Allow to simmer for 1 hour, or until the sweet potatoes and tender.
- 3. In that same bowl, toss your shrimp with the other half of the marinade. When the broccoli has been in the oven for 10 minutes, take out the sheets, turn the broccoli over and add the shrimp evenly across the two sheets. Put it all back in the oven for another 10 minutes.
- 4. Allow to soup to simmer last 10 minutes uncovered. Working in batches, put soup in a food processor and purée. Garnish with pumpkin seeds or sunflower seeds.

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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. "_ Is Christmas": Festive tune by #59-Across 5. Ancient's 1601 9. Monastery boss 14. Comical "Ouches!" 15. Egg: French 16. Bellows 17. The __, "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) family . 19. 'Madame' of chemistry 20. Canuck prov. 21. Carried 22. Brightly plumed bird 23. "Glory to the new born King!" exclaimers: 2 wds. 25. Eternal City's ancient inhabitant 28. Lively 29. Socialite's 'born' 30. Moon shape. 31. Indonesia's Islands 32. When many might still be shopping for Christmas gifts: 4 wds. 40. "__ little teapot. 41. Raised flatlands 42. Sit-ups targets 45. Util. bill 46. Friends, slangly 47. NORAD service monitoring the progress of Rudolph and the gang on Christmas eve: 2 wds. 51. Baking... Allpurpose and multigrain

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52. Canadian rocker Mr. Kroeger 53. Gunk 56. Decorate 57. "We Three Kings of Orient Are"... "Sorrowing, sighing, bleed-ing, dying / Sealed in _-_ tomb." 59. Canadian

singer/songwriter

Ms. McNeil 60. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn 61. Tilled 62. Be popular on Twitter 63. Mail org. in The States 64. Hubbubs

DOWN

1. "Is that for here or _ _?" (Fast food auery) 2. Highway honker 3. "Don't know. matters, but..." 4. Leaky balloon sound effect 5. Communicating cow

6. _ Falls (High

waterfall on Vancouver Island) 7. "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch"... 'You're as _ / You're as charming as an eel... 8. Perhaps-es 9. Esoteric 10. Old 'town' in

11. Like the wilderness 12. Baltimore base ball player 13. Dangerous flying bug 18. Wherefrom 22. Bit of drumming in "The Little Drummer Boy": 2 wds. 23. Jumble 24. Pub game prop 25. TV brand 26. Christmas dinner fragment 27. Converged 33. Lively rhythms 34. Canadian's continental neighbour, briefly 35. Hold back 36. Not ever, poetically 37. Employ 38. Dance style 39. 'Count' suffix 42. Of equal quickness: 2 wds. 43. Town in southern Manitoba named after one of Norse deity Odin's sons 44. Alarm clock button 45. Made money 48. Burial shroud city in Italy 49. Eat loudly 50. Surnamesakes of Orson Welles' most famous role 53. Fine 54. Butter substitute

55. Gambler's

57. Moo _ pork

(Takeout dish)

58. "_-ching!"

chances

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20 You need to make a bold decision and choose between one approach or another. The only danger is that your emotions will guide you instead of reason. Think before you act.

Taurus April 21 - May 21 It's not a good time for taking risks, so don't be tempted to gamble, even if the odds are in your favour. Travel plans, too, are likely to be disrupted. so unless you must be on the move it might be wise to stay at home.

I Gemini May 22 - June 21 You may go over the top if you think you are being cheated out of what you deserve. Before you start firing off accusations make sure you've got the evidence to back them up.

Cancer June 22 - July 23 An emotional looking full moon in your sign over the next 48 hours means you can't trust your feelings. Refuse to get upset no matter the provocation. How you react matters.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23 Something will disrupt your schedule. But why should that worry you? Relax. Slow down. Take it easy for a while. Save your energy for a time when you can make things happen.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23 The current cosmic set-up is more than a little misleading, so don't jump to conclusions and don't launch into a tirade against someone you think does not appreciate you. They'll soon be singing your praises.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23 Making changes should be easy, but because the current full moon cuts across such an important axis of your chart you must make sure it's what you really want. You won't be able to change back again later.

M Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22 There is no point trying to keep feelings to yourself because you won't be able to. Be open about the way that you feel. If you bottle up your emotions they could explode later.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21 If someone is giving you a hard time, remove yourself from their presence before you do something that will make matters worse. Don't put up with immature behaviour.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20 Everything that needs to happen will happen when the time is right. Others will be rushing here, there and everywhere in an effort to get on top of things, but you don't have to.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19 This is a time more for thinking than for doing, so resist the urge to start something new and instead of wasting time on trivial and frivolous people, spend some quality time with your thoughts.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20 You may want to end a relationship but first try looking forward and asking yourself if you may later decide that you were too hasty. Full moons can play all sorts of tricks on people.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row column and box contains 1-9

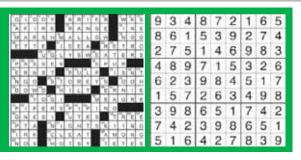
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